

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/558,562

Applicant(s)

OHISHI ET AL.

Examiner

Courtney Thomas

Art Unit

2882

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/22/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,6,7,9 and 10.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 April 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☒ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____ | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DETAILED ACTION*Allowable Subject Matter*

1. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This invention relates to electronic distance measuring equipment, and, more particularly, to a compact, light weight laser range finder utilizing a semiconductor laser preferably operating in the visible light range. 10
A variety of technologies are available for remotely determining the distance from a source to an object. Generally, these approaches involve emitting some type of energy toward the object and receiving a portion of the energy reflected back from the object or a reflective target (such as a corner-cube prism) placed at the ob- 15
ject. The distance from the source to the object is determined by one of several approaches.

3.

Column 1, lines 6-17 – U.S. Patent 5,241,360 to Key et al.

4. As per claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10, the prior art teaches a measuring system, for measuring distance by receiving a reflection light beam from an object to be measured, comprising a control arithmetic unit (30), a light emitting unit (22) and a photo-detection unit (56) (Fig. 1, not shown above; column 1, lines 5-41). The examiner, however, did not find any reference in the prior art that disclosed or made obvious a distance measuring system comprising the following combination of elements: a) a **light amount adjuster** configured to adjust the photo-detection amount of a reflected light beam received by the photo-detection unit at an approximately constant amount and obtain an amount of the reflection light beam based on the result of the adjustment, b) a **control arithmetic unit** configured to compare the obtained amount of reflection light beam and the photo-detection amount of the reflected light beam from a prism or natural object and c) a **storage unit** configured to pre-store a photo-

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detection amount of a reflection light beam from a natural object according to distance as recited in independent claim 1.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Courtney Thomas whose telephone number is (703) 306-0473. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (9 am - 5 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (703) 308 4858. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0530.

CT

Courtney Thomas